(d) what are the other demands of these employees and what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Amguri oil field in Assam was one of the fields offered by the Government of India for development and production of oil and gas under international competitive bidding. A Production Sharing Contract (PSC) was signed by the Government in February 2001 with a consortium comprising Assam Company Ltd. (40%) and Canoro Resources Ltd. (60%), Canada.

ONGC have informed Government that there were reports in the newspapers that the All India Petroleum Workers Federation and the ONGC Workers Associations had called for a 24 hour "ONGC Bandh" on 1.7.2004 in connection with a private Joint Venture having been awarded the contract to develop the Amguri Oil Field in Assam. However no such notice was received by the ONGC management from the ONGC Workers Associations. But a section of employees of ONGC at Nazira, Sibsagar and Jorhat did participate in the illegal bandh call. Nonetheless normal field operations were maintained at the different drilling and production installations by operationalising contingency plans. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and some other oil Public Sector Enterprises have informed Government that their employees did not go on strike on 1.7.2004.

Introduction of CNG in Tamil Nadu

762. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce Compressed Natural Gas in major cities in Tamil Nadu to check pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) For providing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), availability of natural gas and development of natural gas infrastructure is essential. At present, adequate infrastructure is not available in Tamil Nadu to supply CNG to major cities in the State. This is under discussion with the Oil Marketing Companies and the State authorities concerned.